(d) and (e) No, Sir. Kaveri engine has been planned to be integrated with LCA by March 2007.

Drugging and looting of army personnel

2385. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some well-organised gangs drug army personnel travelling on trains and buses and then disappear with their belongings and ID cards;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents reported in recent months;

(c) whether the stolen ID cards are likely to be misused by militants; and

(d) the measures taken by the army to check incidents of army personnel being drugged and robbed in trains and buses?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A total number of 13 cases of drugging of army personnel have been reported during April, 2005 to June, 2005.

(c) No such case has come to light, so far.

(d) Army personnel have been educated by various means to guard against being drugged and robbed, while travelling. Instructions have also been issued to carry out patrolling of Railway Stations/Bus Terminals in some cases.

Recruitment rallies in Karnataka

2386. SHRI K.B.KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of recruitment rallies held for recruitmentrs for subordinate posts in Indian Army in Karnataka ,for the past two years;

(b) how many candidates appeared for physical fitness and English language tests;

(c) what is the percentage of candidates who got through physical fitness tests but had not passed written test;

(d) whether there is any proposal to conduct written test in regional language, Kannad, for aspirants from Karnataka; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to conduct crash course for army aspirants in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The number of recruitment rallies held in Karnataka for recruitment in the Army, was 18 in 2003-2004 and 15 in 2004-2005.

(b) The total number of candidates who appeared for the physical fitness test and the written test were 27596 and 5445 respectively in 2003-2004 and 19605 and 4452 respectively in 2004-2005. The question papers for the written test include General Knowledge, General Science and Mathematics. There is no separate English language test.

(c) The percentage of candidates who had got through the physical fitness test but could not pass in the written test was 28.72% in 2003-2004 and 60.73% in 2004-2005.

(d) As per existing policy, question papers are set in English and Hindi only and are of elementary standard, where a candidate with an average knowledge can pass. In addition, the questions during the examination are explained to the candidates in the regional languages by employing teachers proficient in the local language and candidates are allowed additional time for this purpose where necessary.

(e) No such course is proposed at present.

Participation In Youth Exchange Programme In Singapore

2387. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRASEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of the air and naval wings of the National Cadet Corps have participated in a two-week "Youth Exchange Programme" in Singapore recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expenditure incurred by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.